



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New England District**

696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: June 6, 2006

Comment Period Ends: July 6, 2006

File Number: NAE-2005-3772

In Reply Refer To: Susan K. Lee

Or by e-mail: susan.k.lee@usace.army.mil

The District Engineer has received a permit application from the applicant below to conduct work in waters of the United States as described below. The Corps is soliciting comments on both the project itself and the range of issues to be addressed in the environmental documentation.

APPLICANT: Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT), 2800 Berlin Turnpike, PO BOX 317546, Newington, Connecticut 06131-7546

ACTIVITY: Discharge fill below high tide line in waters of the Quinnipiac River/New Haven Harbor and in inland and tidal wetlands areas in association with replacement of the Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge (Q-Bridge (State Project No. 92-532)) which carries I-95 over the Quinnipiac River/New Haven Harbor in New Haven, Connecticut. Discharges associated with bridge construction and demolition will occur from within cofferdams/marine construction enclosures. The proposed work will permanently impact 0.004 ha (0.009 ac) of tidal wetlands, 0.107 ha (0.264 ac) of inland wetlands, and 0.282 ha (0.697 ac) of river/harbor bottom as a result of excavation/backfill occurring within cofferdams/marine enclosures. Associated work includes reconstruction of I-95 along the east and west approaches to the bridge. The bridge replacement project, removal of the existing bridge, and associated temporary structures required to facilitate new bridge construction and demolition of existing structures will require a bridge permit from the U.S. Coast Guard.

Retain and maintain 6,491 SF of temporary fill area below high tide line in the Quinnipiac River/New Haven Harbor at the east shoreline adjacent to the existing former Yale Boathouse building to facilitate bridge construction and demolition. This temporary fill (within constructed marine enclosure) is currently authorized under Corps of Engineers permit # NAE-2004-396.

A detailed description of the proposed activities affecting wetlands/waters and project plans are attached. Both a concrete and steel alternative are shown on the attached plans. Permanent and temporary impacts are identical for either alternative.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK: This work is proposed in the Quinnipiac River/New Haven Harbor and adjacent wetlands in New Haven, Connecticut. The project begins at UTM coordinates 4574250N and 675050E and extends west to UTM coordinates 4573250N and 675850E on the USGS New Haven, CT (#95) quadrangle sheet.

AUTHORITY

Permits are required pursuant to:

- Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
 Section 404 of the Clean Water Act
 Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act).

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which may reasonably accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Where the activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of disposing it in ocean waters, the evaluation of the impact of the activity in the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act, and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 as amended.

In order to properly evaluate the proposal, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. **Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date.** If you have any questions, please contact Susan Lee at (978) 318-8494, (800) 343-4789 or (800) 362-4367, if calling from within Massachusetts.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining public comments when that is the best means for understanding a wide variety of concerns from a diverse segment of the public.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-267), requires all federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

This project will temporarily impact 0.714 ha (1.76 ac. (areas within the cofferdams and marine enclosures)) of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for the species life stages listed on the attached table (2 sheets). Habitat at the project area consists of silt-clay sediments with a high organic content. The loss of this habitat due to excavation and backfilling associated with construction of new bridge piers and demolition of existing piers may adversely affect the EFH functions and values that support the life stages of those species with designated EFH at this site.

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After pier construction, the permanent impact of the proposed piers will be slightly offset by the removal of the existing piers. The permanent impact to the EFH area will be a loss of 0.282 ha (0.697 ac).

The District Engineer has made a preliminary determination that the site-specific adverse effect will not be substantial. Further consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding EFH conservation recommendations is being conducted and will be concluded prior to the final decision.

SECTION 106 COORDINATION: Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that the proposed work may impact properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. The requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, will be taken into account as part of the permit review process.

Pursuant to the **Endangered Species Act**, the District Engineer is hereby requesting that the appropriate Federal Agency provide comments regarding the presence of and potential impacts to listed species or its critical habitat.

The States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island have approved **Coastal Zone Management Programs**. Where applicable the applicant states that any proposed activity will comply with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved Coastal Zone Management Program. By this Public Notice, we are requesting the State concurrence or objection to the applicant's consistency statement.

The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice. All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in an effort to reach an understanding.

The following authorizations have been applied for, or have been, or will be obtained:

- (X) Permit, License or Assent from State.
- () Permit from Local Wetland Agency or Conservation Commission.
- (X) Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.



Chief, Permits & Enforcement Branch
Regulatory Division

For more information on the New England District Corps of Engineers programs, visit our website at
<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>.

If you would prefer not to continue receiving Public Notices, please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at (978) 318-8058 or e-mail her at bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil. You may also check here () and return this portion of the Public Notice to: Bettina Chaisson, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____

PROPOSED WORK AND PURPOSE

The work involves the discharge of dredged (dewatering within cofferdams) and fill (backfill) material in navigable waters of the Quinnipiac River/New Haven Harbor and in adjacent inland and tidal wetlands areas in association with replacement of the existing Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge (Q-Bridge (State Project No. 92-532)) which carries I-95 over the Quinnipiac River/New Haven Harbor in New Haven, Connecticut. The new Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge will provide ten (10) travel lanes (5 in each direction) and will include full-width inside and outside shoulders. The existing bridge will be demolished. Associated roadway improvements to be constructed in conjunction with the bridge project include the reconstruction (including ramp and drainage improvements) of I-95 in New Haven from the vicinity of East Street near the I-95/I-91/CT 34 interchange to the east abutment of the I-95 overpass over Stiles St. near exit 49 in New Haven. The project limits extend a distance of 1,435 meters (4,700 ft). The project provides capacity and safety and operational improvements to the existing I-95 corridor in the project area.

The CTDOT proposes compensatory tidal wetlands mitigation of approximately 17,168 SF (0.40 ac.) to mitigate permanent wetland impacts. The mitigation site is located in the general vicinity of proposed Pier 13 along the east shoreline where the former Yale Boathouse building will be removed. The Yale Boathouse will be demolished under State Project No. 92-532-006 prior to the start of this project (State Project No. 92-532).

The work affecting wetlands/waters is described below and is shown on the attached plans entitled "I-95 OVER NEW HAVEN HARBOR REPLACEMENT OF THE PEARL HARBOR MEMORIAL BRIDGE" on eighty-five (85) sheets.

A. Tidal Wetland Impacts

The demolition of piers 16 & 17 along with the construction of Pier PS-13 will permanently impact tidal wetlands on the east shore of New Haven Harbor resulting in a loss of 35 m² (377 ft²) of tidal wetlands. The temporary impact is 266 m² (2,863 ft²) resulting from pier demolition, sheet pile construction and trestle installation.

Removal of the existing bridge piers 16 and 17 will result in permanent impacts above the existing foundations and temporary impacts in the footprint of the steel sheet pile enclosures erected around each existing pier. Upon removal of the two existing piers to at least 1 meter (3 ft.) below the existing surface, the sheet pile enclosures will be removed. The pier removal will allow the area between the pier foundation and the enclosure to self-restore as tidal wetlands.

Steel sheeting will also be erected at Proposed Pier PS-13. The sheeting will temporarily impact the tidal wetlands during construction. After construction, the sheeting will be removed and the tidal wetland area will self-restore.

B. Harbor Bottom Impacts

Impacts below the High Tide Line (HTL) result from the temporary impacts of the trestles and cofferdams and permanent impacts due to the construction of the bridge piers and the removal of existing piers.

New Bridge Construction: Construction of the two main span piers and the two main span towers as well as Piers PS-8 and PS-13 will require excavation and fill activities below the HTL. The activities include the installation and removal of the sheeting of the temporary cofferdams, drilling pier shafts, excavation for the proposed foundations, and backfilling around the completed piers. The bridge piers

and towers will permanently impact an area of 2,821 m² (30,365 ft²). The temporary impact of the sheeting and trestles around the proposed piers will be 4,473 m² (48,147 ft²).

Removal of Existing Bridge: Eight existing bridge piers will be removed from New Haven Harbor. The area of temporary impact of the marine construction enclosures is 2,667 m² (28,707 ft²). The foundation of the piers will be removed to 1 meter (3 feet.) below existing grade. Backfill will be placed to restore the areas to the existing harbor bottom elevation.

C. Inland Wetlands Impact

The impacts to inland wetlands, east of the harbor, result from removing an existing embankment in the vicinity of Stiles Street, below the proposed bridge and widening the highway beyond the proposed bridge. The areas of inland wetlands serve as drainage channels along the existing highway.

The east approach of the proposed bridge will extend beyond the limits of the existing bridge. The existing embankment will be removed, which will include the removal of inland wetlands on the north and south sides of the I-95 mainline west of Stiles St. Also, the widening along the south side of I-95 just east of Stiles St. will fill inland wetlands located just off the bridge along the proposed highway. The total area of impact to inland wetlands is 0.107 ha (0.264 ac).

Summary of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Designation

10' x 10' Square Coordinates:

Boundary	North	East	South	West
Coordinate	41° 20.0' N	72° 50.0' W	41° 10.0' N	73° 00.0' W

Square Description (i.e. habitat, landmarks, coastline markers): The waters within Long Island Sound within the square affecting south of the following: Woodmont, CT., West Haven, CT., New Haven, C., Fairhaven, CT., East Haven, CT., Monaquin, CT., Short Beach, CT., Whitneyville, CT., and Westville, CT., from just east of Johnson Point west past Merwin Pt. to Fairview Beach in Woodmont, CT.,. Also includes water around the following: Oyster River Pt., City Pt. Lighthouse Pt., Morgan Pt., South End Pt., Kelsey I., Johnson Pt., along with the Quinnipiac River. Also, the following features are affected: Townshend Ledge, Cow and Calf, Round Rock, and the Farm River.

Species	Eggs	Larvae	Juveniles	Adults
Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)			X	X
pollock (<i>Pollachius virens</i>)			X	X
whiting (<i>Merluccius bilinearis</i>)				X
red hake (<i>Urophycis chuss</i>)	X	X	X	X
redfish (<i>Sebastes fasciatus</i>)	n/a			
witch flounder (<i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>)				
winter flounder (<i>Pleuronectes americanus</i>)	X	X	X	X
windowpane flounder (<i>Scophthalmus aquosus</i>)	X	X	X	X
Atlantic sea herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>)			X	X
monkfish (<i>Lophius americanus</i>)				
bluefish (<i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i>)			X	X
long finned squid (<i>Loligo pealei</i>)	n/a	n/a		

short finned squid (<i>Illex illecebrosus</i>)	n/a	n/a		
Atlantic butterfish (<i>Peprilus triacanthus</i>)				
Atlantic mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>)	X	X	X	X
summer flounder (<i>Paralichthys dentatus</i>)			X	
scup (<i>Stenotomus chrysops</i>)	X	X	X	X
black sea bass (<i>Centropristes striata</i>)	n/a		X	
surf clam (<i>Spisula solidissima</i>)	n/a	n/a		
ocean quahog (<i>Artica islandica</i>)	n/a	n/a		
spiny dogfish (<i>Squalus acanthias</i>)	n/a	n/a		
king mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus cavalla</i>)	X	X	X	X
Spanish mackerel (<i>Scomberomorus maculatus</i>)	X	X	X	X
cobia (<i>Rachycentron canadum</i>)	X	X	X	X
sand tiger shark (<i>Odontaspis taurus</i>)		X		
Winter skate (<i>Raja ocellata</i>)			X	X
little skate (<i>Raja erinacea</i>)			X	X

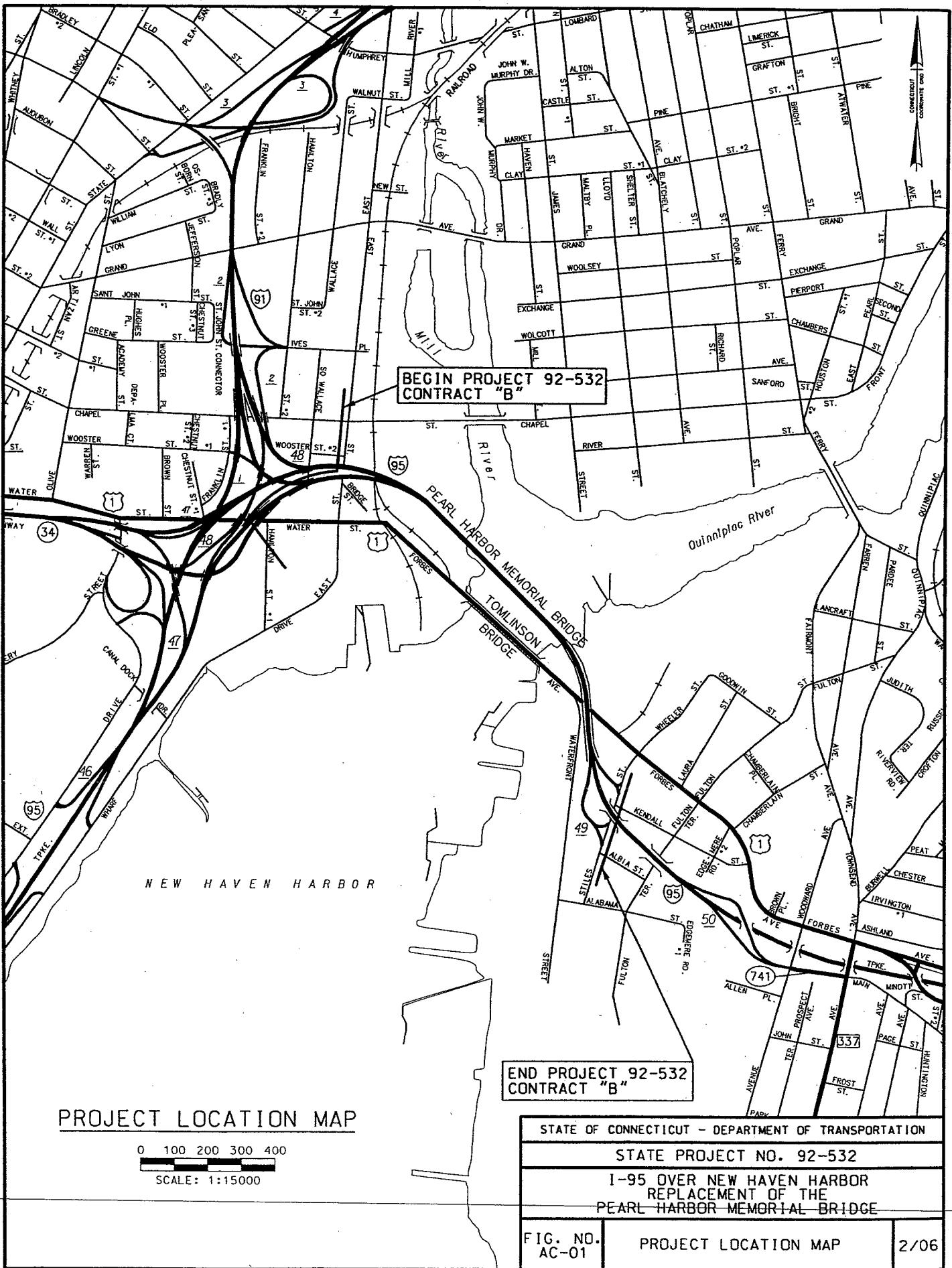


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STATE OF CONNECTICUT - DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

STATE PROJECT NO. 92-532

I-95 OVER NEW HAVEN HARBOR
REPLACEMENT OF THE
PEARL HARBOR MEMORIAL BRIDGE

FIG. NO.
AC-02

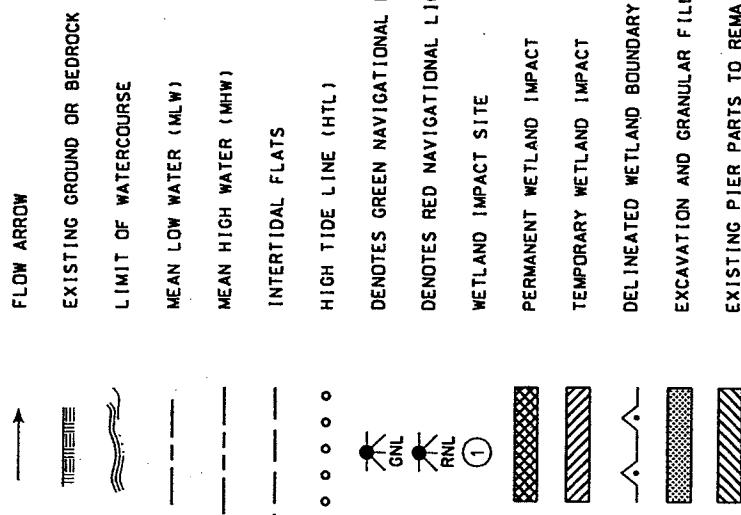
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GENERAL NOTES

1. ALL PROJECT WORK SHALL CONFORM TO CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (CONNDOT) FORM 816 (2004) AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS.
2. EXISTING UTILITIES ARE TO REMAIN AND ARE NOT TO BE DISTURBED BY CONTRACTOR'S DEMOLITION OPERATIONS. CONTRACTOR TO VERIFY LOCATION OF UTILITIES PRIOR TO BEGINNING WORK.
3. ALL DIMENSIONS SHOWN ON THE PLANS ARE IN MILLIMETERS EXCEPT AS NOTED OTHERWISE.
4. VERTICAL DATUM ACCORDING TO NAVD 88.
5. ALL MATERIALS RELATED TO THE DEMOLITION SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CONTRACTOR. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL REMOVE ALL MATERIALS FROM THE JOB SITE AND LEGALLY DISPOSE OF THEM.
6. TIDAL WETLANDS ARE ONLY SHOWN TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY WERE FIELD DELINEATED. WETLANDS MAY CONTINUE WELL BEYOND THE AREAS HIGHLIGHTED.

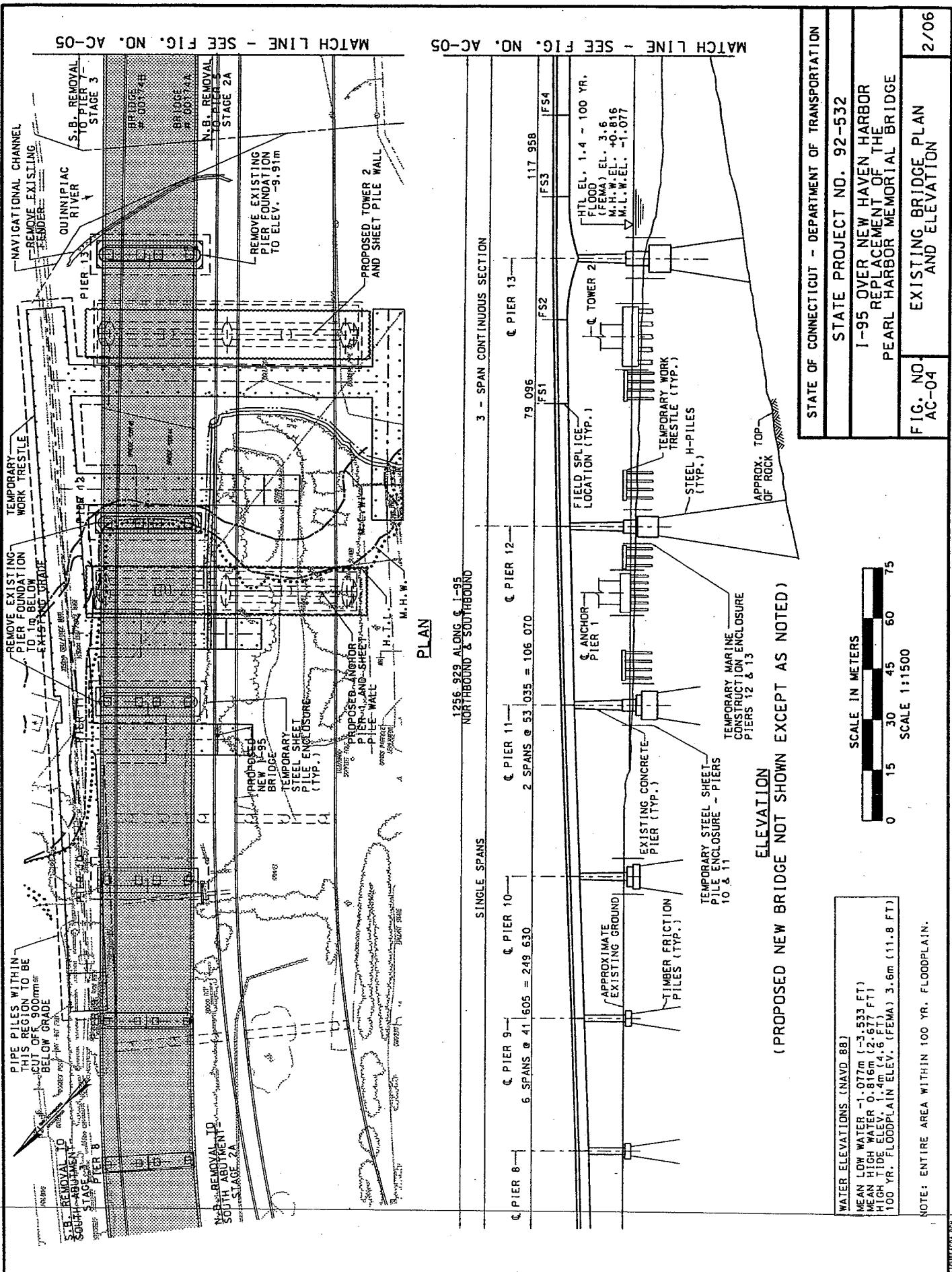
LEGEND

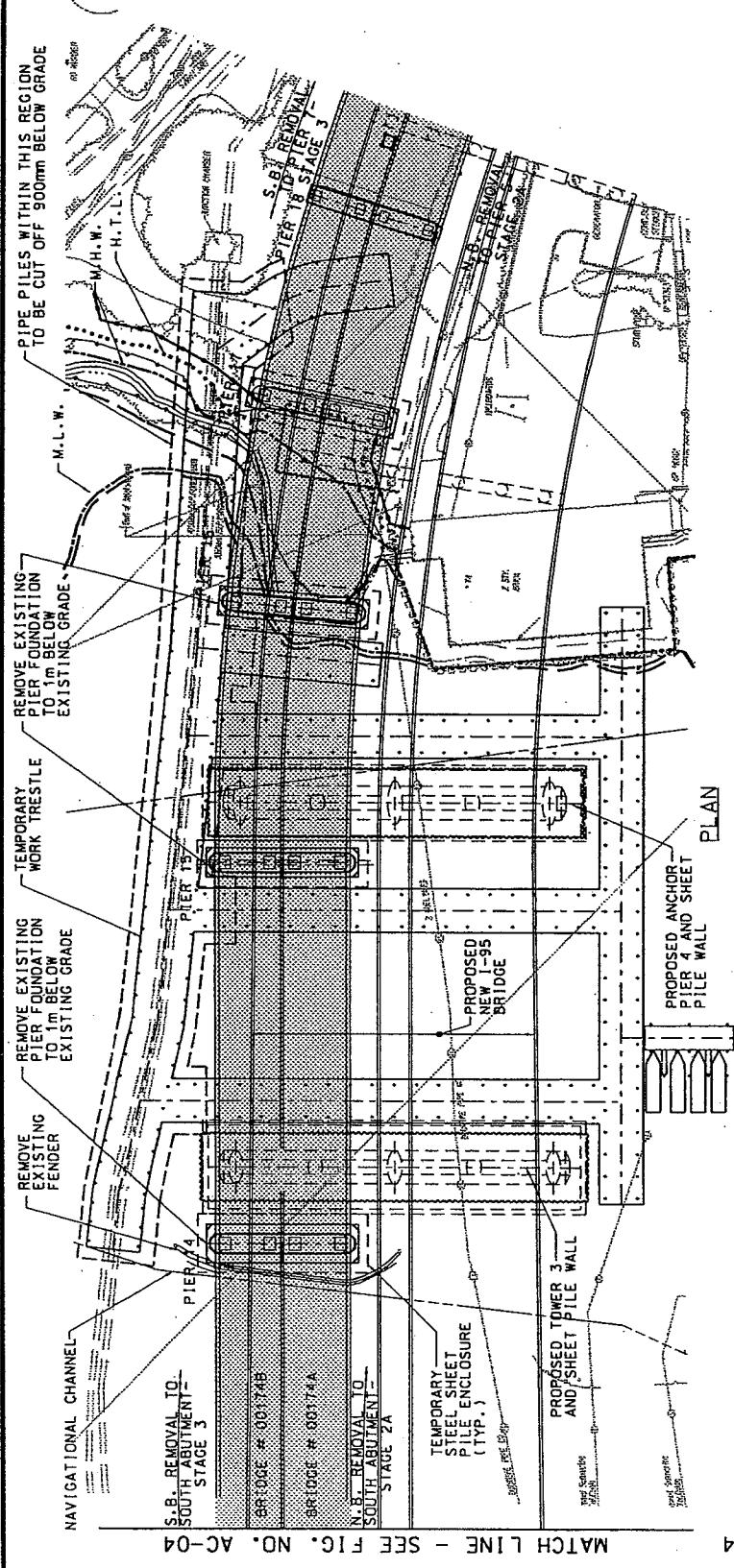


ABBREVIATIONS

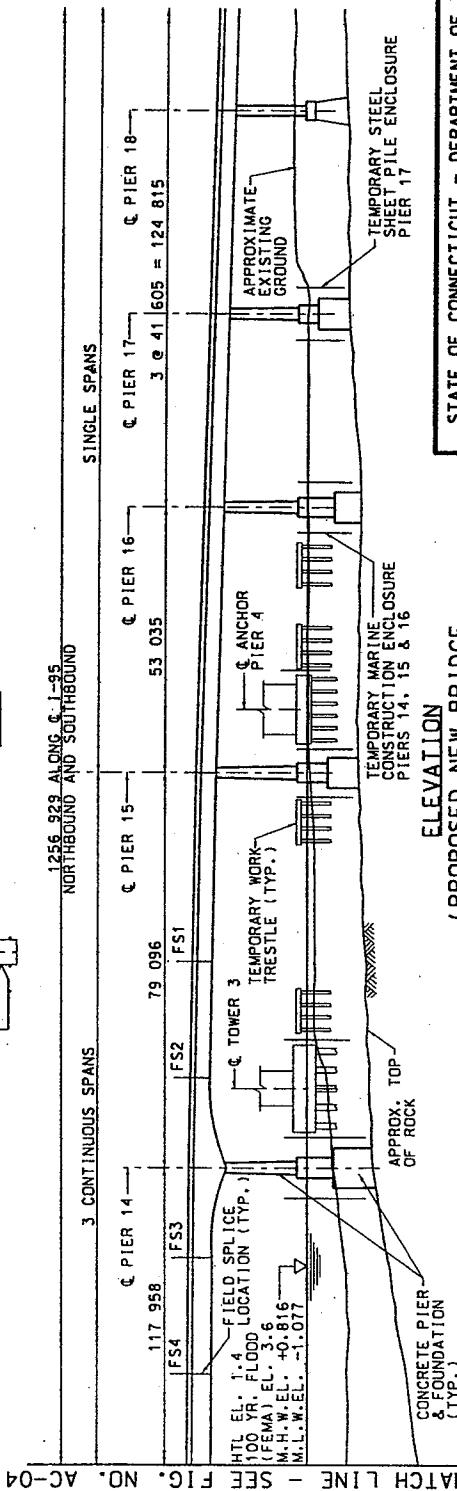
S.B.	SOUTHBOUND
N.B.	NORTHBOUND
M.H.W.	MEAN HIGH WATER
M.L.W.	MEAN LOW WATER
H.T.L.	HIGH TIDE LINE

STATE OF CONNECTICUT - DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	STATE PROJECT NO. 92-532
I-95 OVER NEW HAVEN HARBOR REPLACEMENT OF THE PEARL HARBOR MEMORIAL BRIDGE	
FIG. NO. AC-03	GENERAL NOTES, ABBREVIATIONS AND LEGEND 2/06





1256-928 ALONG C-1-85
NORTHBOUND AND SOUTHBOUND
3 CONTINUOUS SPANS
SINGLE SPANS



WATER ELEVATIONS (NAVD 88)
MEAN LOW WATER ~1.077m (~3.533 FT)
MEAN HIGH WATER 0.816m (2.667 FT)
HIGH TIDE ELEV 1.4m (4.6 FT)
100 yr. FLOODPLAIN ELEV. (FEMA) 3.6m (11.8 FT)

NOTE: ENTIRE AREA WITHIN 100 YR. FLOODPLAIN.

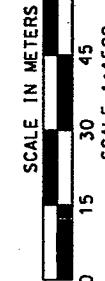


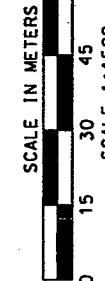
FIG. NO. AC-05	EXISTING BRIDGE PLAN AND ELEVATION	2 / 06
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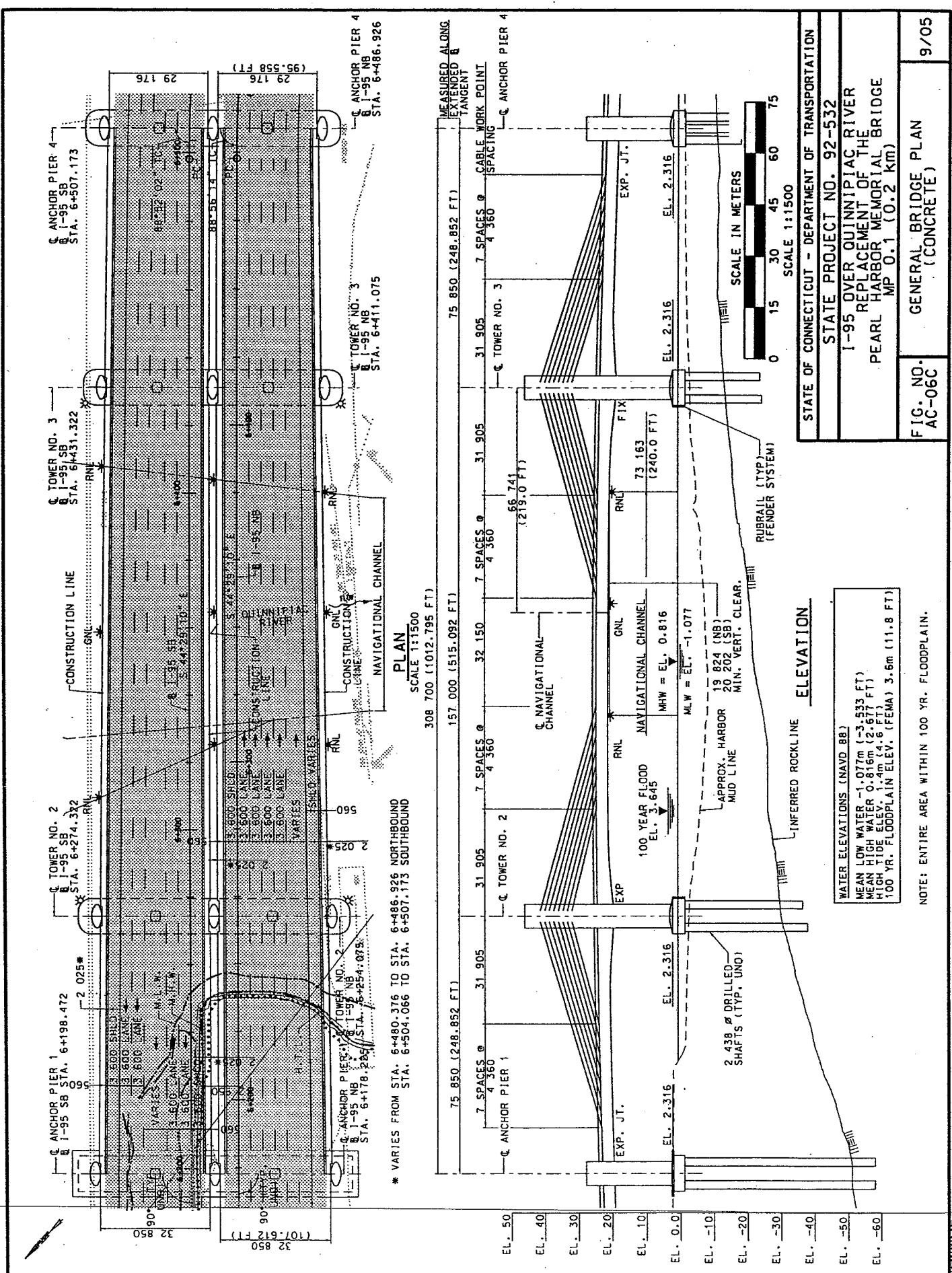
STATE OF CONNECTICUT - DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

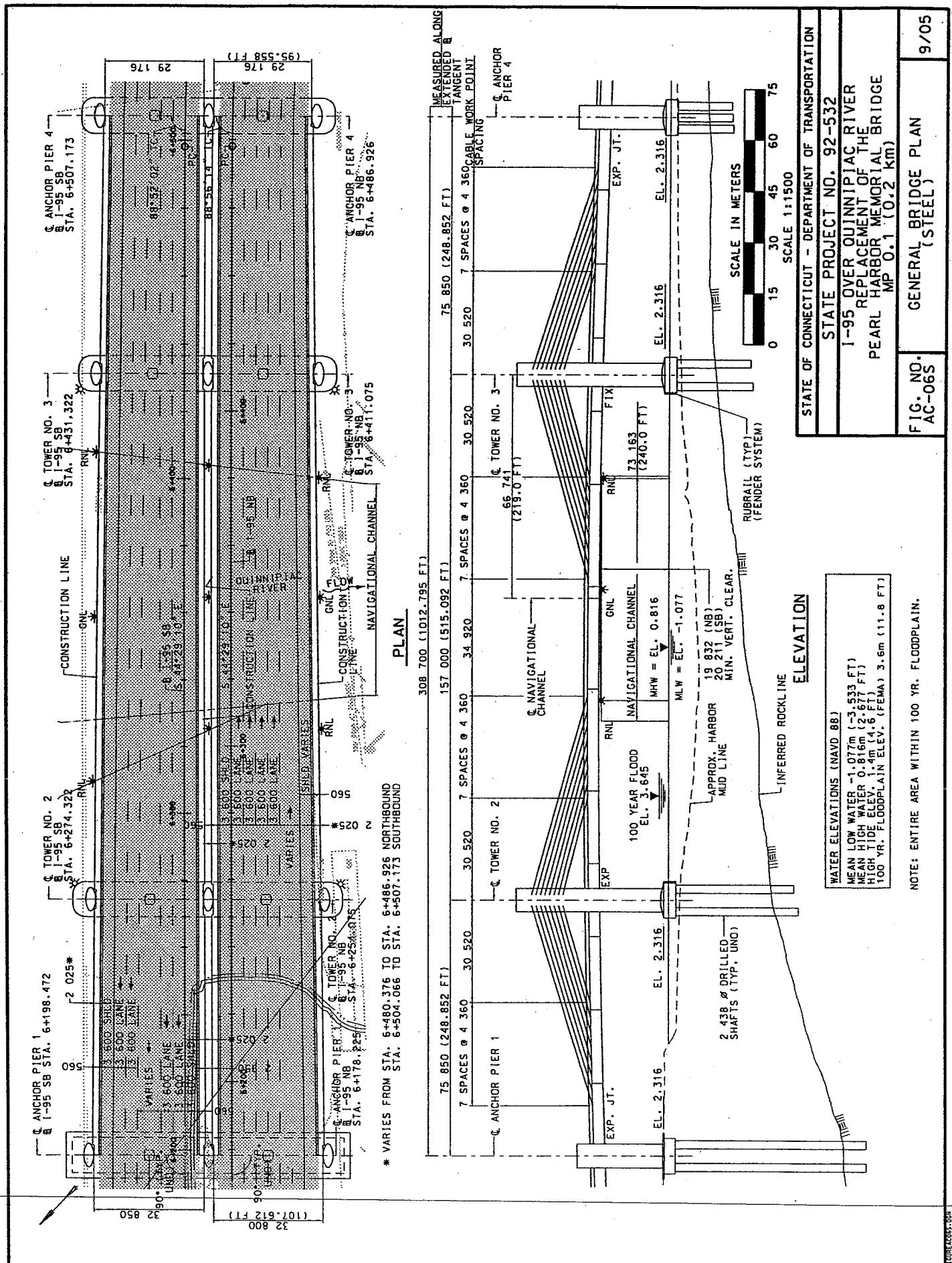
STATE PROJECT NO. 92-532

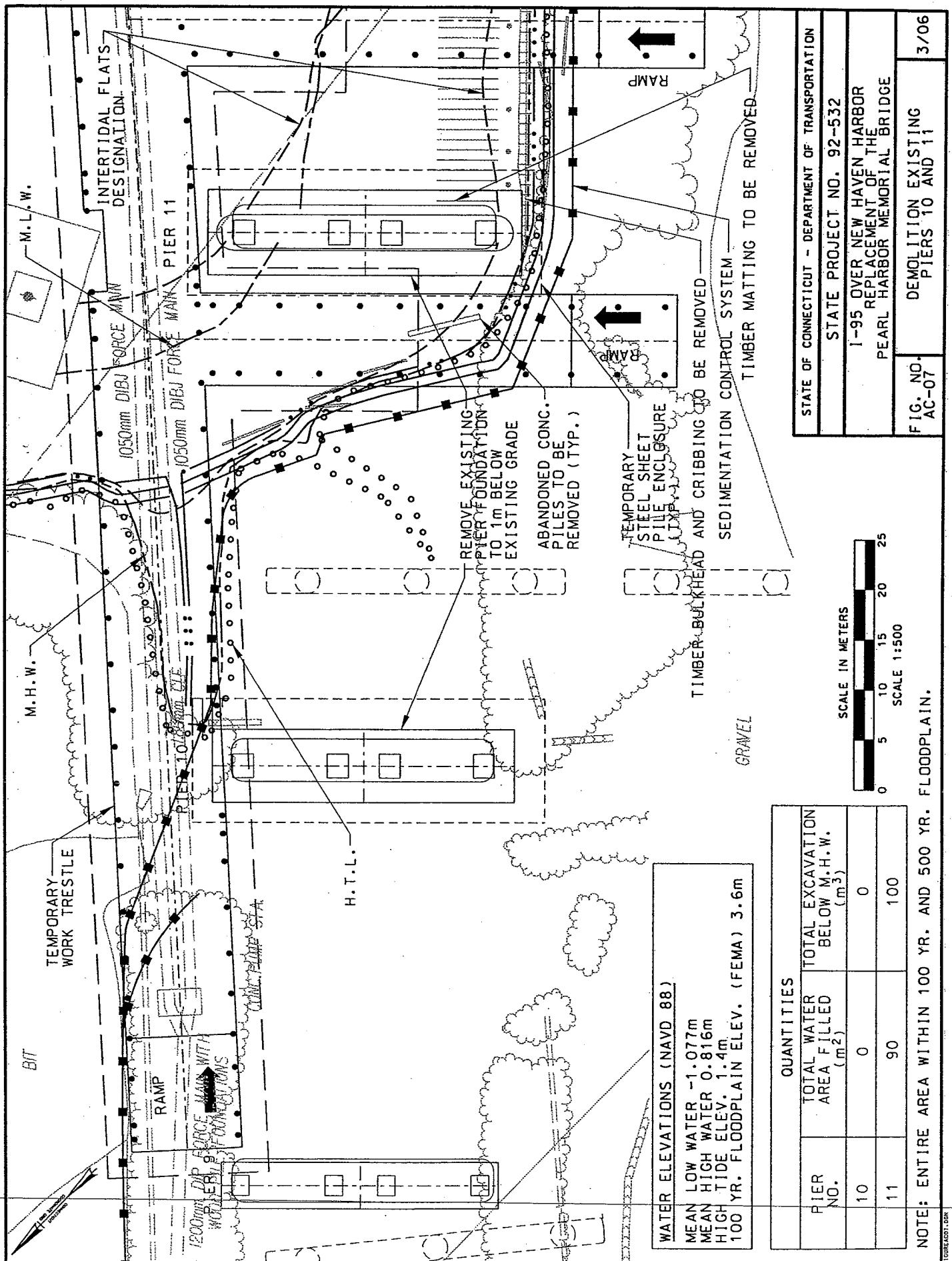
I-95 OVER NEW HAVEN HARBOR
PEARL HARBOR MEMORIAL BRIDGE

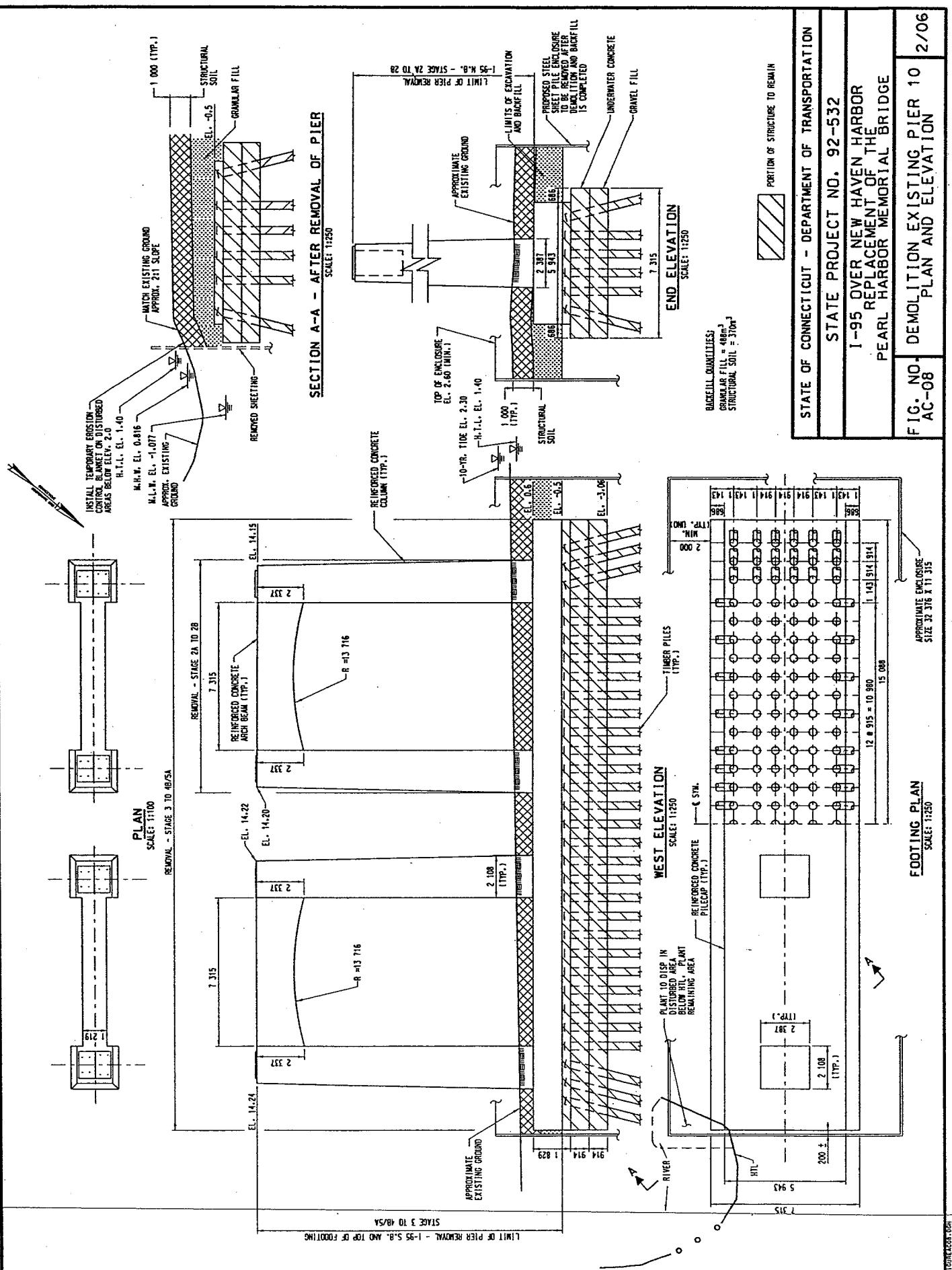
(PROPOSED NEW BRIDGE
NOT SHOWN EXCEPT AS NOTED)

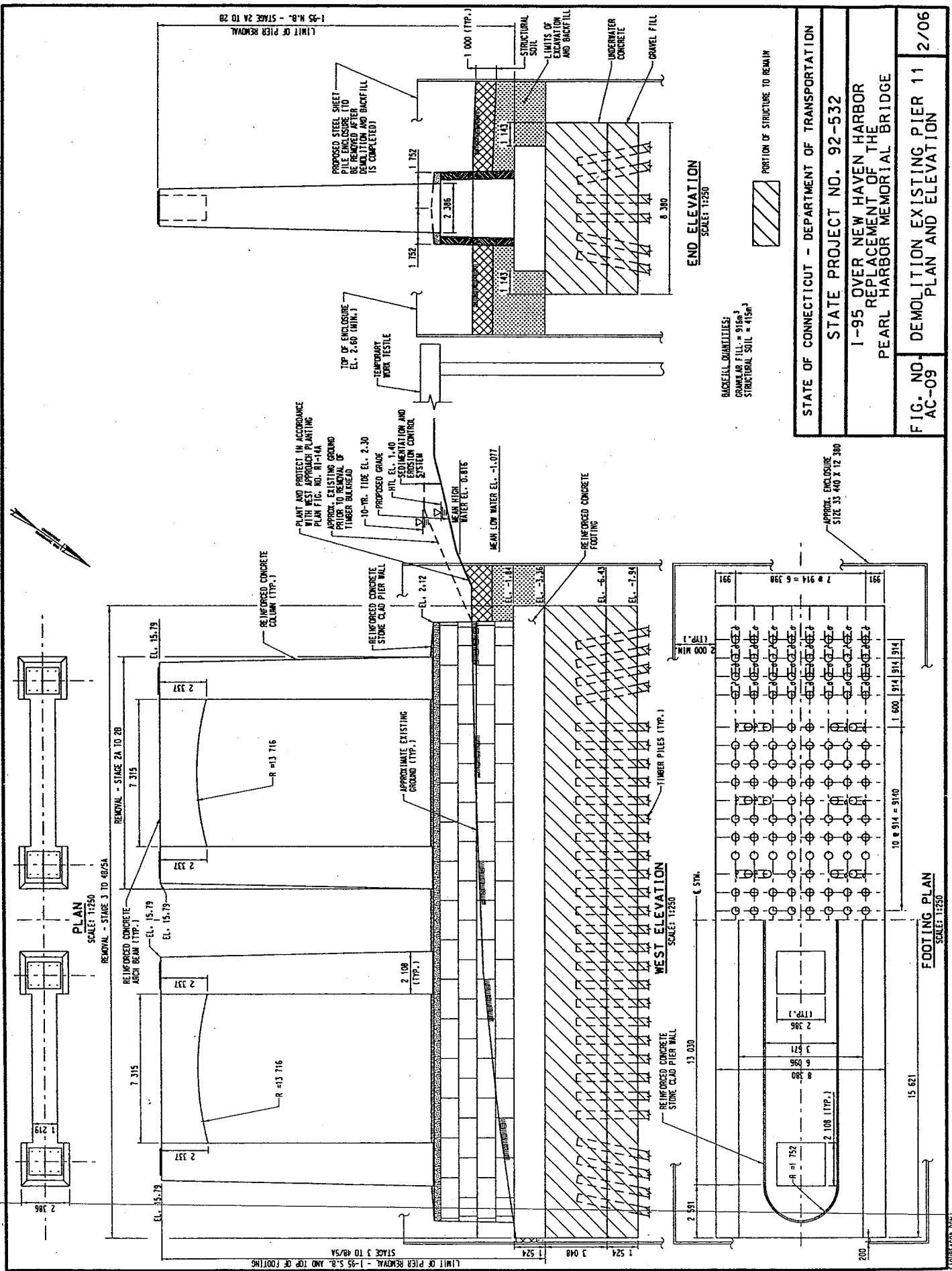












FOLIUREACOS, DGM

